

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/606,956

Examiner

Luan V. Van

Applicant(s)

TSUZUKI ET AL.

Art Unit

1753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed May 5, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-26.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention is distinguished over the prior art of record by providing a plating apparatus comprising a member fixedly disposed in a plating vessel so that at least a portion of said member contacts a surface of the conductive substrate opposite to the one surface, at least the portion being conductive, wherein said member comprises a plurality of first members and a plurality of second members in a longitudinal direction of the conductive substrate, each of said first members being a flat plate, wherein a plurality of said first members are disposed with a gap between adjacent ones of said members and are fixed by supporting members, and wherein each of said second members is dispersed over upper surfaces of two adjacent first members, wherein a surface of said first member facing a surface of the conductive substrate is substantially flat, wherein said second member includes a projection for filling the gap, and wherein a surface of said projection facing the conductive substrate and a surface of said first member facing the conductive member are disposed on substantially the same plane, and wherein said second member is detachable from said member. The prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests the combination of limitations recited in the instant claims.

Kramer teaches a method and apparatus for electroplating a metallic strip comprising a contact member disposed on the periphery of the rotatable member and sealing bands 46 for sealing the strip to the rotatable member. The resilient sealing

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bands are formed of polyethylene or the like and are depressed by tension and collapse to form a seal on the periphery of the strip. The sealing bands thus would not be conductive, and they would not be flat in the longitudinal direction of the conductive strip, since they are disposed on a rotatable drum. Kramer also does not teach or suggest that the hard backing 64 or the sealing bands 46 are detachable. Polan teaches a method and apparatus for electroplating a metallic strip comprising a guiding frame having longitudinal and transverse members, but does not teach both members contacting the conductive substrate or that the members are detachable. Since the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests the combination of steps recited in the instant claims, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to perform the claimed process.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

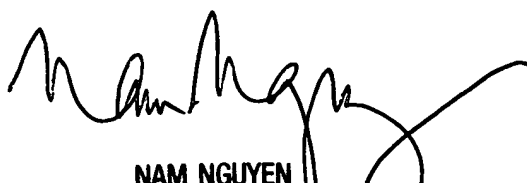
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luan V. Van whose telephone number is 571-272-8521. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LWV
May 18, 2006



NAM NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700